

Hampton Court and Bushy Parks

SIXTH REPORT OF THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY



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Advisory Committee on Forestry

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SIXTH REPORT

HAMPTON COURT AND BUSHY PARKS

To the Right Honourable GEOFFREY RIPPON, M.P.

SIR,

When we were re-appointed in 1959 (by the then Minister, now Lord Molson) we were asked to consider the problems of long-term arboricultural management and forestry in Richmond Park, Bushy Park, and Greenwich Park. Richmond Park, which was the most urgent, was the subject of our Fifth Report published in 1961. The Report which we now submit deals with Bushy Park and, since it is closely linked with Bushy, includes Hampton Court Park as well. The Report takes the form of a general survey of the two Royal Parks with detailed recommendations for the forestry work therein. These recommendations arise in part from our Second Report and subsequent inspections, and we are glad to see that many of our suggestions have been carried out or adopted.

Tree Planting in Hampton Court Park and Gardens

Historical Note

1. In 1514 Cardinal Wolsey acquired the Manor of Hampton, and, during the following year, he started to lay out the gardens of his new Palace there. Nothing now remains of the gardens as then planned — although the present Knot Garden reproduces features typical of that period. A contemporary poem by Cavendish speaks of their "arbours and alyes" and the convolutions of their evergreen knots.

2. Henry VIII acquired the Palace and Grounds from Cardinal Wolsey in 1525 and planted a flower garden, a kitchen garden, and two orchards; he bought trees in some quantity and, although fruit trees predominated, the accounts contain such items as "200 young treys of oke and elme, appuletres and peretrees . . .". In 1535 he planted the still-existing alley of Wych Elms which was originally called Queen Anne's Bower (that is, Queen Anne Boleyn's) and, later, Queen Mary's Bower. He also laid out the Pond Garden which, with its rectangular enclosures divided by low brick walls, retains the layout designed for it in his time.

3. In the five succeeding reigns there was no large-scale planned planting of trees. It is reasonable to suppose that Hampton Court received its share

of Mulberries under King James I's edict of 1609, but there is no direct evidence of this. Repairs and replacements continued, and there were occasional new plantings, mostly of fruit trees : e.g. Apricots and Peaches in 1614. The attention of both Charles I and Oliver Cromwell was chiefly directed towards improving the water supply to the ponds and fountains, and the vicissitudes undergone by Hampton Court during the Commonwealth must have discouraged any plans of planting for the future.

4. With the accession of Charles II, new plantings began again, for the King had studied the French style in parks and gardens, and wished to see it reproduced in England. Shortage of money prevented development on the scale of Versailles, but the work done at Hampton Court was, by English standards, quite extensive. The long avenues of lime trees radiating from the East front of the Palace into the Home Park were planted at this time ; the semi-circle of limes before the East front is probably contemporary with the avenues, but, although it would seem to be a necessary and integral part of the *patte d'oie* layout, 17th century sources disagree about the date of its planting. The limes for the avenues were brought from Holland ; the accounts mention the sending of a special emissary in 1662 to bring back 4,000 trees. John Evelyn, writing in the same year, remarked that "All these gardens might be exceedingly improved, as being too narrow for such a Palace". Cosmo III, Duke of Tuscany, writing in 1669, was more diplomatic (by then the new schemes had been begun) : "The Gardens are divided into very large, level, and well-kept walks which, separating the ground into different compartments, form artificial pastures of grass, being themselves formed of espalier trees, partly such as bear fruit and partly ornamental ones, but all adding to the beauty of the appearance".

Later in Charles II's reign yew trees were planted in the Great Parterre ; they were long celebrated as the finest in England, and some still survive.

5. The reign of William III saw further changes, mostly at the hands of his gardener Henry Wise. The beds of the Great Parterre were planted with scroll work outlined with box edging, and the semi-circle of limes before the east front was enlarged (although it was later curtailed to allow the "wings" of the garden to be laid out north and south along the edge of the newly-made Broad Walk). In the borders of the Broad Walk were planted yew trees cut in pyramids and hollies cut in spheres : some of these trees still stand, though they are no longer clipped to shape.

6. In the area to the north of the Palace a Wilderness was laid out — to a formal design that helied its name. This was originally planted with mixed clumps of cypress and flowering shrubs enclosed by hornbeam hedges lining its gravel walks. The Wilderness still exists, but has long since been allowed to grow into an informal plantation : the only original feature now surviving is the Maze, which has since been planted and repaired in part with other species.

7. The art of transplanting large trees was by this time well understood and much used. As a preliminary to lowering the existing level of the Privy Garden (so as to afford a better view of the Thames from the windows of the State Rooms), the trees growing there — hornbeam, cypress and box — were temporarily transferred to the Wilderness ; on the completion of the work, they were brought back and replanted, with the addition of some yews,

along two newly-formed terrace walks raised 10 ft. above the level of the sunken garden, and flanking it on either side. Henry Wise's most considerable arboricultural success was the transplantation in 1703 of 403 large lime trees (varying from 3 ft. to 4 ft. 6 in. in girth according to his own specification of work); although the sources disagree about which trees were moved and where they were replanted, it seems probable that they were trees of the east front semi-circle, and that they were moved nearer to the east front.

8. In the Park a new avenue was made by planting four rows of limes from the Bowling Green to the next bend of the river, and thence to the circle in the Home Park; while within the gardens themselves (as elsewhere in England during the reign of William III) the orange tree was much cultivated, and specimens were brought from Holland to Hampton Court.

9. The close of William III's reign marked the end of the great tree-planting programmes at Hampton Court, for Queen Anne merely completed the schemes begun by her predecessor. The need for repairs and replacements continued: the great storm of November 1703 so damaged an old walk — it is not known which — that 70 large elms were used to restore it. William Kent worked at Hampton Court in the 1730's, but made no great changes. George III, having abandoned Hampton Court as a residence, asked Capability Brown to "improve" it, but Brown refused. Nevertheless at least one early 19th century picture of the Great Parterre shows it crammed haphazardly with trees, and this may suggest that the "natural" school of landscaping was active there during George III's reign: it may equally suggest the lack of attention that Law criticises.

10. The Great Vine of Hampton Court was planted in 1769; it is of the Black Hamburg (or Hambro) variety, and originated in a slip from the vine at Valentine's in Ilford. Contrary to report, the vine has been excelled in size by others in Britain, including its parent.

11. No innovations have to be recorded for more recent times, and the Ministry, since becoming responsible for the gardens, has been concerned rather to preserve the evidence of the various historical layouts in so far as they survive.

Tree Planting in Bushy Park

Historical Note

12. The land on which Bushy Park lies originally formed part of Hounslow Heath. The soil, although light and gravelly, appears to have retained little of its indigenous tree-growth, only some scattered old thorns being of greater antiquity than the Tudor plantings. It was Cardinal Wolsey who, in 1514, first enclosed the area, which together with Hampton Court Park then extended over about eighteen hundred acres. Soon afterwards, in 1525, the property was made over to King Henry VIII, who immediately began to develop it. He stocked it with game and divided the estate into three almost equal parts, Upper Park in the west, the Harewarren in the east, and Middle Park between the two.

13. The plantings of this period are recorded in a series of surveys made under the Protectorate. In the Great Survey of 1653 the acreage of Bushy

Park was estimated at eleven hundred acres : the modern Ordnance Survey's total is one thousand and ninety nine. In the Harewarren few trees were found apart from a "Padacke or Coppis" of five acres "ouer against Hampton Court". In the coppice were two hundred oaks, but in the rest of the area there were only "6 oakes and ellms" and "26 smale Elme and oaken trees growing in seuerall places". Sixty acres of the Warren were then ploughland, perhaps along the north of the Kingston Road, where roughly that acreage is shown on modern maps as paddocks and open grazings.

14. A fair number of trees stood in Middle Park. In Upper Park (which was itself divided into two parts) there was in the "Old Parke" over £600 worth of trees and smaller wood ; while in the "Other Part" there were but a few "Yong Elmes". Today the Old Park area is one of the least wooded parts of the Park.

15. William III was mainly responsible for Bushy Park as we know it. In 1699, with Sir Christopher Wren as his chief adviser, he created the famous Chestnut Avenue — a row of horse chestnuts supported by four rows of lime trees on either side of a central roadway. At the water basin, later to contain the Diana Fountain, the chestnuts fell back and were flanked by only two rows of limes. From this point supplementary avenues of limes extended to the outskirts of Hampton Town westward and of Hampton Wick eastward, each a little over three-quarters of a mile long. Most of the latter avenue has now disappeared.

16. 732 limes and 274 horse chestnuts were used in the planting of these three avenues, at a total cost of £4,300. Wren also planted many other trees in Bushy Park, mainly in groups rather than avenues ; the biggest of these plantings was the Pheasantry to the West of the Chestnut Avenue.

17. A fresh survey of the Park was laid before Parliament in 1783 but appears to have been lost in the fire which destroyed the old Palace of Westminster. No doubt it contained information similar to that in a rather different survey, made in 1798, of trees which might be felled for timber to help defray the "Expenses incurred in the repairs at the House and Premises occupied by the Duke of Clarence in the said Park". With such broad terms of reference, unhampered by any consideration for posterity, the surveyor marked down in all 48 loads of Spanish chestnut, 84 of beech, 474 of oak, 240 of elm, and 8 of ash. The total number of trees came to 758 and realised £3,253. This survey also contains a complementary schedule of timber that would survive these fellings ; but it is scarcely more comforting. In Woodcock Quarter were left some thorns and a few beech and oak trees about twenty to thirty years old ; likewise in the Slate Quarter ; in Hind Quarter a few young oaks only ; in Harewarren Quarter a few thorns and young oaks with one or two pollard oaks ; in Diana Quarter a small amount of young oak and beech ; in Cain's Wood a few young and a few decayed oaks with some thorns. Round the Upper Lodge there remained a number of young elms and a few thorns and decayed pollard oaks ; in Wheat Quarter thorns and a few more young elms ; in Pen's Grove a quantity of old oak, long past its best but the remnant of some very fine timber. In the Ash Walk and Old Paddock the surveyor left only a few young oaks apart from thorns and old, decaying oaks.

18. In fairness it should be remarked that this survey was confined solely to trees growing in open places, and that none of the then current paddocks

or enclosed spaces was shewn to the surveyor. Nevertheless, he observed that a considerable quantity of timber in other parts of the Park (mainly oak and beech) had already been cut down and sold. He also commented that, if all the trees he had marked down were to be felled (as indeed they were), then the Park would be left "naked and bare of timber"; he therefore recommended that coppices be planted for replacement, with a note that the soil was "extremely proper for the growth of Oak Timber".

19. Extensive felling continued, and in 1812 it came to light that over the preceding five years £1,347 had been realised from the sale of timber alone; in addition much had been cut down for domestic uses, including four or five mature oaks annually for making posts and fencing. No detailed account had been kept of the trees involved except for 150 limes which had formed the outer two rows of the Avenue leading westward from the Diana Fountain (originally consisting of four rows), and which were felled in 1807. It was the limes, in fact, that had suffered most from these depredations, but a report, specially called for in 1812, noted that there was then "very great scarcity of trees in the Park"; moreover, many other trees had suffered from unnecessary and unsightly lopping.

20. While there was nothing illegal about these fellings, they were doubly unfortunate in that they were generally at the expense of the less wooded areas and were unaccompanied by any programme of replacement. There is no official record of any further plantings before the turn of the present century, when fresh interest was aroused by an oak tree being planted to the south-west of the Diana Fountain to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Thereafter attention was focused on the screening of various encroachments and unsightly areas beyond the boundary. Thus the walls of the Royal Paddocks were planted up in 1905-6; and plantations to screen the Gas Works and the National Physical Laboratory followed. Individual replacements of trees in the avenues have been planted as required.

21. Since the last war the policy of the Ministry has been to develop the plantations and avenues of the Park rather than to attempt an even distribution of trees throughout its open spaces. Four acres of Waterhouse Plantation have been re-planted; a quantity of conifers has been introduced in the Round Plantation; and three new avenues have been laid out, one of horse chestnuts at Hampton Hill, one of limes each side of the Longford River, and another of limes running west from the Diana Fountain.

Forestry and Arboriculture

22. The Royal Parks of Hampton Court and Bushy, separated only by the High Road from Hampton Wick to Hampton Court, together extend over one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five acres to form yet another of the broad green areas of parkland and woods that lie within the ever-extending Metropolitan boundaries and of which the people of London and its environs may justly be proud. It is of interest to note that the rich heritage of these demesnes, with their wealth of verdure and tall trees, has become free to allcomers from home and overseas chiefly as a result of the love of our Kings and Queens of former times for the English countryside and the sport of hunting. We owe the existence of these Royal Parks to the

desire of Royalty to preserve the woods and spinnies, together with the more formal avenues and the grassy swards, as harbouring grounds for deer which still find sanctuary within their precincts.

23. Today the glory of these rural oases amid the sprawl of bricks and mortar that is outer London lies largely in the variety of trees and shrubs that here flourish singly, in groups, or in woodland masses, so ordered as to afford all the effects of graciously proportioned landscape. Traditionally our park trees are of the species indigenous to Great Britain, but there are also some which have, for centuries, been acclimatised in the British Islands and which we have come to regard as native: for example, sycamores and the Spanish and horse chestnuts. Other species, of later introduction, are to be seen here and there, but, whatever the tree, the aim of the landscape forester should always be to ensure that his plantings will maintain the spacious panoramas of past years and, in particular, to carry forward the accepted theme for future generations to enjoy.

24. It has, however, to be remembered that each species of tree has its normal span of life, modified though this may be by the conditions in which the trees grow and by the care that is expended on their culture and protection. Foresters must continually give thought for the future. It is always of prime importance to look ahead and to ensure that trees of younger growth are properly sited, established, and ready, in due time, to take the place of veterans that may, from whatever cause, fall, become diseased, or be rendered unsightly. It is a first principle of arboricultural and woodland management to provide for a succession of tree-growth, of appropriate species, so as to preserve the familiar and well-loved scene. This precept is one that must always be observed for the maintenance of park-like conditions, even if, as happens now and then, it becomes necessary to remove a healthy tree to make space in the overhead canopy for the unobstructed light and air so essential for the upward growth of younger plantings.

Cultural Conditions

25. The soils of the riverside meadow lands, on which Hampton Court and Bushy Parks are sited, vary from sandy and clay loams to gravels typical of the lower Thames Valley. Generally these soils are adequately drained and fertile enough for satisfactory tree-growth. Thanks to the prevailing south-westerly winds, atmospheric pollution does not, at present, constitute a serious risk. Circumstances thus remain favourable for the normal growth of those kind of trees and shrubs commonly found adorning the English parklands, many of which (and especially the elms) here grow to imposing size.

Flora and Fauna

Flora

26. From the point of view of their vegetation these two Parks may be considered together, since, owing to their proximity, their similarities considerably outweigh their differences. Both consist predominantly of dry and acid *Festuca/Agrostis* grassland, and support a flora characteristic of such a habitat; among the more interesting plants are the Upright Chickweed and the Slender Cudweed which occur in both parks, and the Subterranean Clover

found only at Hampton Court. Hampton Court has noticeably more luxuriant vegetation: grasses suited to less arid ground such as *Dactylis* and *Anthoxanthum* are more conspicuous, and the Thyme-leaved Speedwell also occurs. This greater luxuriance is no doubt due to three factors: the closer proximity of the river, the comparative absence of traffic, and the greater variation in ground level. Moreover, the pools are deeper and less contaminated, and this contributes to a greater abundance in the number of both individuals and species of aquatic plants: *Ranunculus circinatus* which grows in the Long Water, is an example of such a deep-water species; the Fringed Water Lily occurs, however, even on a much-frequented pool in Bushy Park as well as at Hampton Court; and the White Water Lily also grows in both. Bushy Park is perhaps better provided with rushy hollows, which, together with its somewhat greater acidity, no doubt accounts for the presence of Marsh Pennywort here. Among the more interesting of the other plants recorded for one park but not the other are the Orange Foxtail Grass from Hampton Court and *Polygonum mite* from Bushy. Two of the more interesting native trees planted here are the Small-leaved Lime and the typical form of the Crack Willow, *Salix fragilis*, which is rather uncommon — its variety the Russell Willow (var. *russelliana*) being more frequent.

Fauna

27. These Royal Parks continue to harbour a variety of wild life, in spite of built-up surroundings and proximity to the Metropolis. The long-established herds of red and fallow deer, which are the most striking feature, are free to range throughout the open park-land; in their natural surroundings they are a constant attraction to visitors from home and abroad. Their numbers are, of course, regulated by the extent of grazing that is available, and are now estimated at 100 red and 450 fallow deer. Like the deer in Richmond Park, they are almost certainly descendants of those in the area in the days of Henry VIII. Foxes can occasionally be found in both these Royal Parks, and hedgehogs are numerous.

28. Sheep and cattle are grazed in Hampton Court Park, and horses and cattle in Bushy Park.

29. The biennial reports of the Committee on Bird Sanctuaries in the Royal Parks record species seen by the Official Observers. It is noteworthy how well, despite the increase in public use and the gradual encroachment of building development on the surrounding areas, the level of species recorded in these Parks has been maintained over the past two decades.

30. In 1939, 77 species were observed, of which 52 were believed to have bred. There were peak years in 1949 (91 observed, 54 believed to have bred) and in 1955 (96 observed, 49 believed to have bred). For 1959/60 the detailed records set out in the tables accompanying the Committee's Report show an overall total of 95 species observed during the two years, the annual totals being 86 and 85 respectively; the relative figures of species believed to have bred are 47 and 49.

31. The list of birds visiting the Parks records a wide range of species. In 1959 comparative rarities such as the Green Sandpiper and Greenshank were observed, as were the Oystercatcher, Hooded Crow, and Grasshopper Warbler in 1960. In 1959 Goldcrests were recorded as breeding for the first time; they nested again in 1960.

32. On the debit side, it is noted that the Rookery in the lime trees flanking the Long Water, which in 1946 held 58 occupied nests, was reduced to 8 nests in 1959, and was found to be deserted in 1960 ; since then Rooks have been observed only infrequently. Carrion Crows are, however, far too numerous, and in winter they tend to gather in flocks.

33. Local relationships of wild plants, animals, and trees — one with another and also with the soils and physiography — give opportunity for study to the numerous visitors who are interested in natural history and in the significance of these ecological associations. Watchers, too, find much to observe among the diversities of woodland, pasture, and water which give these Royal Parks their stimulating attractiveness.

Recommendations

I. HAMPTON COURT PARK

34. The outstanding features at Hampton Court are the lime avenues that radiate from the Parterre on the east front of the Palace, the Parterre itself with its yew trees, the Wilderness and the famous Maze, together with the scattered groups and spinnies disposed irregularly about the open park-lands. It is regrettably evident that the lime trees in the avenues, with their interesting growth of mistletoe, have passed their best. By the agency of wind or disease a few of the trees are thrown, or break up, each year. These losses are being made good by planting trees of the same species in the vacant sites, but if, in due course, the newly-planted lime trees are to take their proper place, both space and overhead light must be provided to enable them to develop properly. Short of disaster by wind or decay, this process of renewal will be spread over many years to come ; and every endeavour known to arboriculturists will have to be used to preserve the avenue effects as they can now be seen. Your Committee recommends that the inner rows of the avenue to the north-east of Long Ditton Gate should be removed and replanted with well-grown young lime standards, due care being taken (as always, when dealing with the renewal of avenues) to ensure that the newly-planted trees are given ample overhead clearance. We suggest that this avenue be extended outwards towards Long Ditton Gate, access from the Gate being kept open. We also recommend that the elm trees standing along the Barge Walk should be kept under observation, and that any tree which develops signs of danger to the public be suitably dealt with as may become necessary.

35. In the Parterre, some of the yew trees of William III which showed signs of failing a few years ago have responded to treatment and should continue to flourish. If, however, any of these important ornamental trees should develop further unmistakable indications of decline, they should at once be replaced with specimens as large as can be obtained of the same variety of *Taxus*. In the attractive area known as the Wilderness the object of management is to maintain the informal effect that has developed. Planting for succession, as may become necessary as time goes on, should be made sporadically and not to any set pattern.

36. The original hornbeam hedges forming the well-known Hampton Court Maze have, with age, grown thin in places. In view of the practical

difficulties that beset restoration with hornbeam, we recommend that the present practice of making good the weak spots with suitably grown yew be continued.

37. Planting for succession is due in or around several of the groups and spinnies, and also adjacent to some of the older trees growing singly; this work should be carried out with corresponding species, though a few more willows could, with advantage, be planted on the verges of the pond to the south of Long Water. Suitably sited groups, mainly of horse chestnuts and limes, have been planted on the Golf Course, and it is intended to maintain the existing groups of elms by planting more of the same species close at hand. Because of the need to raise stocks of healthy young standard trees for these purposes, the garden at Stud House has successfully been brought into use as a forest tree nursery.

II. BUSHY PARK

38. The grandeur of the central avenue of horse chestnut trees, running north and south from Teddington Lodge to Hampton Park Gate for nearly a mile, gives this Royal Park a unique distinction. Planned by Sir Christopher Wren (who also designed the pedestal of the Diana Fountain: the figures are by Fanelli) and planted, together with its flanking limes, in the reign of William III, this well-known landmark, to which so many people make visits at its Maytime flowering, ranks high among famous avenues of trees. Some of the chestnuts originally planted still survive, in spite of the toll taken by time and the ravages of storm and decay, but replacements are now numerous and the work continues year by year. The maintenance of this celebrated avenue poses a continuous problem, not only in preserving its dignity and charm, but also in conserving these qualities for future years. Losses from gales and disease occur each year among the older trees: the policy being pursued is to replace the trees that fail with vigorous young horse chestnuts. Once again, the newly-planted trees must not be over-shaded by their spreading neighbours if they are to develop the stature and spread of crown needed to render them worthy successors of the fine specimens they replace. Throughout the outer rows of lime trees that form the background of this truly Royal Avenue, the policy of replacing older trees as they show unmistakable signs of decline is also proceeding.

39. A new avenue of horse chestnuts has been planted, extending to Hampton Hill Gate, and is making good progress. Outer rows of limes have also been added to the avenue between the Diana Fountain and the White Lodge at St. Alban's Bank. All avenues, woods, plantations, and groups of trees have been under periodic observation by your Committee during the past ten years; prescriptions for treatment in each separate area have been formulated from time to time and are being carried out. Succession for ageing trees growing singly in open parkland is being safeguarded by planting young trees of like species close at hand; particular attention is being given to the replacement of the older hawthorns, the berries of which are so useful an addition to the food of birds in the winter months. We consider that more willows should be planted on the banks of the Longford River, west of Upper Lodge, to preserve a characteristic feature that has become rare in urban surroundings.

Car Parks

40. There are two large car parks in Bushy Park, one off the road to the Heron Pond (bounded on the west and north by a stream) and another on the road leading to Upper Lodge. Both are in the vicinity of well-grown trees, and are relatively inconspicuous. It has not therefore been judged necessary to recommend any extra screening measures.

War-time Encroachments

41. Your Committee is gratified to learn that one of the two war-time camps is now being demolished. It is hoped that before long the whole area will be restored to the Park and, where desirable, re-planted.

III. GENERAL

The Protection of Woods and Trees

42. The herds of deer, attractive as they are to visitors, are a serious menace to the growth of trees and shrubs. All young and newly-planted trees must be well protected, and all plantations and woods securely fenced, to guard them from browsing and from the seasonal fraying with antlers to which both red and fallow deers are habitually disposed. Likewise any resurgence of the rabbit population, almost destroyed in recent years by the epidemic of myxomatosis, will render active measures of control essential if the high cost of installing wire netting guards is to be avoided. Damage by the grey squirrel, here closely controlled, is not one of the park forester's major troubles at present, but it could become so at any time.

Disease

43. There is little practical remedy against the risks and dangers to which most kinds of trees are subject arising from insect depredations and fungi, except by careful choice of the species for any given site. Where disease is manifest any tree seriously affected should be removed with as little delay as possible, particularly where fungus attack becomes evident.

Fire

44. Fire is a grave and ever-present threat to trees and woodland. In places frequented by the public, carelessness may give rise to fires either on the open grasslands or in woodlands where rank ground vegetation is not sufficiently suppressed by the overhead leaf canopy. Provision of racks of fire-besoms for beating out flames is valuable, particularly in dry seasons, both as a safeguard and as a warning.

Litter

45. Your Committee congratulates those frequenting these Royal Parks, and also the Park's staff, on the comparative absence of litter over and around the areas chiefly favoured by the public. The heedless scattering of litter, which disfigures so many places of public resort in Great Britain, cannot be too strongly condemned — a bad habit that seems less prevalent amongst most of our Continental neighbours. Nor should glass bottles ever be left lying about: broken glass is too frequently the cause of injury to livestock of all kinds. No doubt the lavish packaging of many popular commodities is partly to blame for the litter nuisance, but receptacles for rubbish are freely provided in London's Royal Parks and it is expected that they will be used.

Choice of Species

46. As recommended elsewhere, your Committee would discourage the planting of coniferous species; nor should exotics be planted except rarely, and with discretion.

Planting for Succession

47. The importance of successional planting cannot be too strongly stressed. This point will, we hope, be in the forefront of the minds of all those who will, in future years, be entrusted with the care of trees in the Royal Parks.

Summary of Recommendations

48. A summary of our detailed recommendations and the action taken on them is given in Appendix I. Appendix II lists the horse chestnut trees now standing in the Chestnut Avenue; and a list of the woods and plantations within the parks appears in Appendix III.

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P.R.O.: *Various Official and Contemporary Records*.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Principal Previous Recommendations</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>Remarks and Future Recommendations</i>
BUSHY PARK	The war-time encroachments in the Park should be shielded by screens of poplars.	Completed	These should be restored to the Park as soon as possible and re-planted where desirable.
The avenue between the White Lodge and the Diana Fountain	A replacement avenue should be planted outside the existing one with the trees spaced alternatively with those in the avenue at present.	Completed	
The woodland from Waterhouse Plantation to Broom Clumps	Sycamore saplings should be kept down and re-placements made with appropriate species in any open areas.	Work continuing	
Warren and Oval Plantations	These should be fenced and the poorer trees in the Oval Plantation thinned out.	Not yet started	
Open areas to east of Chestnut Avenue	Planting for succession should be considered.	Planting continues	
Banks of Longford River west of Upper Lodge	Further willows should be planted for succession as existing trees are removed.	Not yet complete	Coniferous species and Exotics should be planted only rarely in the Royal Parks, and with discretion.
North-east boundary of the Park	Further oaks should be planted for succession.	Planted	
Keepers Wood	Cleared spaces should be planted with <i>quercus palustris</i> ; thorns and low growing trees should be planted to provide for the bird life of the wood.	Not yet completed	
Round Plantation	The conifers in the enclosed area next to the Plantation are incongruous and should be replaced by oaks to extend the existing oak wood.	Not yet started	

Chestnut Avenue	The avenue appearance should be retained at all times, decaying trees being removed and replaced with new planting.	Being carried out as necessary	This process must continue even if occasionally healthy trees have to be removed in order to avoid over-shadowing newly-planted ones.
HAMPTON COURT PARK	The principal avenues are all of limes now near the end of their life, and their replacement by the cutting out of old trees and re-planting in the same position should be intensified.	Being carried out as necessary	The inner rows of the avenue north-east of Long Ditton Castle should now be removed and replaced with young limes; the avenue should simultaneously be extended towards the Gate.
The Wilderness	Any re-planting necessary should retain the informal spacing of the trees.	Being carried out as necessary	A few more willows should be planted.
Home Park	Additional willows should be planted for succession by the pond south of the Long Water and an oak near the Pavilion Terrace of the Golf Course removed.	This has been done	
Barge Walk	The elms should be regularly inspected for dangerous trees.	This is done	Any of the yew trees which show signs of decline in future should be replaced.
The Parterre			
The Maze			This section should be replaced as necessary with yew.
Nursery at Sand House	The output of the nursery should be increased.	Output has been increased to its maximum and the area utilised to its fullest capacity	

Chestnut Avenue, Bushy Park

HORSE CHESTNUT TREES

HAMPTON COURT GATE TO TEDDINGTON GATE

CONDITION GOOD UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

WEST SIDE

EAST SIDE

No.	Approx. Date of Planting	Condition	No.	Approx. Date of Planting	Condition
2	1954	Fair	1	1699	One fair
1	1862		1	1951	
1	1912		1	1817	
1	1699/1700		1	1912	
1	1862		2	1862	
1	1912		1	1899	
3	1699/1700		1	1817	
5	1935		1	1699/1700	
1	1699		2	1894	
2	1935		1	1699	
1	1699/1700	Now to be removed	1	1927	To receive attention. One to be removed
HERE BEGINS THE CIRCLE			3	1917	
1	1935	Bad specimen. To be removed	1	1960	
1	1699		1	1952	
1	1912		2	1699	
1	1699		1	1949	
1	1956		1	1927	
8	1699		1	1952	
1	1956		1	1699	
2	1699		1	1960	
1	1957		2	1949	
1	1699		1	1960	
2	1940	Fair	2	1699	One died. To be re-planted
2	1699		1	1927	
1	1947		2	1699	
1	1699		1	1699	
1	1961		3	1951	
2	1939		1	1949	
HERE ENDS THE CIRCLE			2	1927	
2	1939	Fair	2	1907	
1	1699		3	1699	
4	1935		6	1699	
1	1862		8	1927	
1	1699		2	1947	
1	1961		1	1927	
3	1699		1	1907	
7	1937		4	1937	
2	1952		3	1699	
4	1937		1	1927	
1	1949		3	1699	
1	1912	Fair	2	1917	
1	1961		1	1699	
4	1899		2	1949	
			1	1862	
			4	1922	

WEST SIDE

EAST SIDE

No.	Approx. Date of Planting	Condition	No.	Approx. Date of Planting	Condition
PHEASANTRY ROAD					
1	1961	Specimen to be removed	1	1699	Fair
1	1937		1	1939	
1	1699		1	1699	
			1	1862	
1	1937		4	1699	
1	1699				
4	1912				
1	1862				
7	1927				
1	1887				
3	1949				
1	1699	Now removed			
2	1932				
ROAD TO ADMIRALTY RESEARCH LABORATORY					
1	1957	One to be removed	3	1932	One fair
1	1949		1	1912	
3	1699		1	1939	
1	1817		6	1699	
3	1699		1	1812	
1	1937		1	1939	Centre tree to be removed
2	1817		1	1960	
5	1927		3	1699	
3	1960				
1	1927		2	1960	
1	1960	1	1927		
1	1699	2	1960		
1	1949	1	1699		
4	1960	12	1922		
2	1699	One to be removed	1	1960	
3	1949		3	1927	
			1	1862	
			1	1927	
TEDDINGTON GATE					
136	TOTALS		134		

I. Hampton Court Park

There are no plantations in this park except for a small area originally a tree nursery which became overgrown during the war and was thinned out to leave a small wood. It contains beech, lime, ash, oak, poplar and thorns.

II. Plantations in Bushy Park

(i) Canal Plantation

Alders, willows, ash, poplars and some oaks. Much flooding took place in this wood before and during the war, and most of the oaks were killed. The canal has now been restored to its original shape and the area drained. It has also been fenced in and cleared of most of the dead trees. Considerable re-planting has been carried out and much natural regeneration is now taking place.

(ii) Round Plantation

This has been re-fenced and contains many well-grown oaks; some conifers have been introduced on the south side; cedar, Scots pine, and spruce.

(iii) Willow Plantation

Mostly willows and poplars with some silver birch.

(iv) Waterhouse Plantation

Oaks predominate and are growing well (after extensive thinning of the sycamore seedlings). Beech, silver birch, hornbeam and some conifers are also represented. A woodland garden has been developed and is open to the public.

(v) Keepers Wood

Oaks predominate with some beeches, sycamores and alders in the swampy areas. A continuation of the woodland garden is being developed on the south side of the stream which runs through the wood, but is not yet open to the public.

(vi) The Pheasantry

This is an open area where the trees are mainly specimen oaks, planes and Spanish chestnuts. There are also some specimen conifers.

(vii) Broom Clumps

Oaks and conifers, the latter mainly spruce and larch.

(viii) Half Moon Plantation

This is an unfenced plantation in which oaks and pines predominate. There are two or three beech trees, and an occasional silver birch and Spanish chestnut.

(ix) Oval Plantation

Also unfenced. This is a varied plantation containing oaks, beeches, Spanish chestnuts, cedars and pines.

(x) Warren Plantation

Unfenced. Mainly oaks.

(xi) Gas Works Plantation

Mixed plantation of ornamental trees planted to screen gas works from park. Newly fenced.

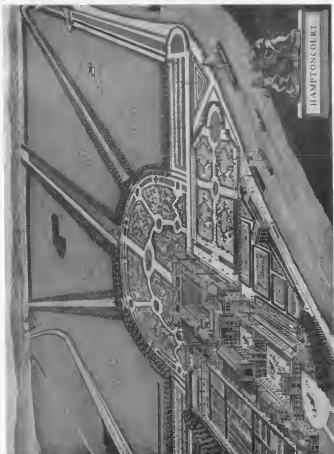
(xii) Royal Paddocks Plantation

Ornamental trees planted for screen effect. Cedar, Robinia, birch, beech including some copper beech, and Spanish chestnut. Newly fenced.

(xiii) Teddington Plantation

Planted to screen the National Physical Laboratory from the park with mixed ornamental trees: cedar, pine, robinia, horse chestnut, Spanish chestnut, common and copper beech, and ash. Newly fenced.

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1. An early 18th century view of Hampton Court.
Taken from an engraving by Kip, published in 1724, of a probably earlier drawing by Knuff



2. A modern view.
Aerial view taken in 1962 (Crown Copyright reserved)



3. *The process of decay : a fallen lime tree.
One of the trees in the outer lines of the Chestnut Avenue.*



4. Decay forestalled : a replacement avenue planted alongside an existing one.
The avenue of lime trees running west from the Diana fountain.

